

Serial No.: 10/678,901

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. (currently amended) A bottle gripping device for gripping a crown neck of a bottle during cleaning, capping, and filling, comprising:
a stationary gripping member;
a biased gripping member that is biased toward the stationary gripping member by at least one spring and is adapted to move away from the stationary gripping member as a result of pressure from the bottle; and
wherein the device is adapted to contact the bottle at 4 distinct discrete points comprising less than 25 % of ~~[[the]]~~a total circumference of the crown neck.
2. (currently amended) The device of claim 1, wherein the bottle has a 360° circumference and the distinct discrete points comprise less than 90° of arc.
3. (cancelled)
4. (cancelled)
5. (cancelled)
6. (cancelled)
7. (currently amended) The device of claim ~~[[6]]~~1, further comprising a guide upon which the biased gripping member slides between a gripped configuration and a released configuration.

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8. (original) The device of claim 7, wherein the stationary gripping member has a groove that cooperates with the crown neck to hold the bottle.
9. (currently amended) A method of cleaning, filling, or capping a bottle, comprising:
providing a bottle having a neck with a circular cross section; ~~[[and]]~~
pushing a biased gripping member over the neck of the bottle; and
gripping the bottle ~~by contacting the neck~~ at four discrete points along the circumference of the neck.
10. (currently amended) The method of claim ~~[[8]]~~9, wherein the step of gripping the bottle further comprises using the bottle to apply pressure to ~~[[a]]~~the biased gripping member.
11. (currently amended) The method of claim ~~[[8]]~~9, further comprising a step of using pneumatic fingers to release the bottle.